



600

HF Happenings

South African Radio League * Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga
 Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union since 1925
www.sarl.org.za www.iaru.org www.iaru-r1.org

March
2014

P5/K6VVA IOTA AS-197 Info update

On 20 March, Rick, K6VVA, posted the following update which includes his decision to use a "BLACKLIST" if his operation becomes a reality:
<http://www.k6vva.com/p5/p5infoupdates.html>

He mentions that "with 5 competing groups in the quest", along with the recent "Anti-Social Pileup Behavior" during the FT5ZM and 3COBYP pileups, he made a final decision implementing a "Blacklist". Several hours after his above post, Rick sent out the following: "Everyone is entitled to their opinions, and everyone is free to plan their own Expeditions based upon their own objectives and operational procedures. This will further clarify my recent decision that was a long time in very serious deliberation. <http://www.k6vva.com/dnq2>. As stated in the .pdf. "...those who play-by-the-rules of 'GOOD SPORTSMANLIKE' conduct in ALL on-air pileups have nothing to fear."

International Marconi Day

Stations around the world will be on the air for International Marconi Day on Saturday 26th April.

It is not a contest; instead, it is an opportunity to make contact with historic Marconi locations around the world. Over 20 have confirmed to date, including GB4IMD at Poldhu and VO1AA in Newfoundland. Certificates are available for those who work the requisite number of sites.

All stations planning to participate are urged to register in advance, and full details are at www.gb4imd.com.



Mills On The Air

Denby Dale ARS will once again be co-ordinating the annual Mills On The Air event over the weekend of 10 and 11 May.

Full details of how to register, the stations taking part and how to claim a certificate are shown on DDARS website, www.g4cdd.net. If you would like to take part by running a station at a wind- or water-mill or even an ancient steam driven mill, ask if they are taking part and would they like to have an amateur radio station as part of their event to promote awareness of the mill.



Mostert's Mill is a historic windmill in Mowbray, Cape Town. It was built in 1796 and is the oldest surviving and only complete windmill in South Africa.

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Have **YOU** done anything today to Promote Amateur Radio?

March

- 1 and 2 - ARRL International DX SSB Contest
- 2 - SARL Hamnet 40 metre Simulated Emergency Contest
- 8 and 9 - RSGB Commonwealth Contest
- 9 - Cape Argus Cycle Tour
- 17 - St Patrick's Day
- 21 - Human Rights Day; Namibian Independence Day
- 22 - World Water day
- 23 - World Meteorological day
- 28 - Schools close
- 29 and 30 - CQ WPX SSB Contest
- 31 - Hindi New Year

April

- 3 - SARL 80 metre QSO Party
- 5 - RaDAR Contest
- 7 - Schools open
- 10 - Closing date for May RAE
- 11 to 12 - SARL National Convention
- 15 - Pesach begins
- 18 - Good Friday; World Amateur Radio Day
- 19 - Autumn QRP Contest; Two Oceans Marathon
- 20 - Easter Sunday
- 21 - Family Day
- 22 - Pesach ends, Earth Day
- 27 - Freedom Day
- 28 - Public Holiday
- 29 - School holiday
- 30 - School holiday



Current Summits-on-the-Air (SOTA) activities are announced at www.sotawatch.org
 And more SOTA information can be found at www.sota.org.uk and www.zs4bfm.co.za/sota.asp



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And then there is Bradshaw's Mill at Bathurst in the Eastern Cape, also Caversham Mill at Balgowin.

Have a look at <http://www.windmillworld.com/world/southafrica.htm> and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_windmills_in_South_Africa

2014 SARL 80 m QSO Party

The aim of this contest is to create an interest in and activity on the 80 m band. It is a phone only contest.

The contest will be run on 3 April from 17:00 to 20:00 UTC (19:00 to 22:00 CAT) and only frequencies in the segment 3 603 to 3 650 and 3 700 to 3 800 kHz may be used.

The exchange is call signs, RS signal report and operator's name. Participation can be as a Single Operator or a Short Wave Listener (SWL)

The scoring is 10 points for every contact with a South African station and 15 points for every contact with a station outside South Africa. Logs must be submitted by 12 April to zs5lp@vodamail.co.za

2014 RaDAR Contest

The RaDAR contest is a unique event aimed at promoting the use of Rapidly Deployable Amateur Radio stations. This contest is for all licensed radio amateurs not limited to South Africa. A choice is made prior to the contest to participate in one of the defined categories but may be changed at any time during the contest. The points system is so structured as to encourage portable operations especially moveable RaDAR stations.

The contest takes place on Saturday 5 April starting at 14:00 UTC and ending at 18:00 UTC (16:00 to 20:00 CAT) - approximately two hours during the day and two hours at night within the South African time zone.

All amateur bands, besides the WARC bands, are allowed including cross band contacts via amateur radio satellites. Modes - CW, SSB, AM, FM or any digital mode. QSOs via terrestrial repeaters will NOT be allowed. Suggested HF Calling frequencies, visit <http://zs6bne.wordpress.com/2013/03/06/radar-calling-frequencies/> for the latest international list of frequencies. Recommended digital modes frequencies - refer to the SARL Contest Manual, General Rule 15.

The exchange: the RaDAR contest requires more than a minimalistic information exchange. Accurate information exchange is considered more important than a large QSO count. Call sign, Name, RS(T) Report, QTH and grid locator. Note the grid locator can change as RaDAR operators are allowed to move position at any time. The grid locator of six characters is acceptable but should preferably be accurate to 10 characters for higher position accuracy.

Scoring: 1 point per QSO. Individual QSOs - per mode, per band, per satellite, per call sign.

Categories and multipliers. The following multipliers are applicable to determine the final score. If category changes were made during the contest than calculate accordingly.

x 1 - RaDAR Fixed station (at home or in another building)

x 2 - RaDAR Field station (portable - away from home)

x 3 - Moving RaDAR station - Car / motorcycle / bicycle / etc., - minimum 3 km

x 4 - Moving RaDAR station - on foot - minimum 1 km

Note: Moving RaDAR stations can move at any time but are required to move to the next destination after five contacts have been made from the present location. The move needs to cover the required distance before further contacts are allowed to be made. This requirement tests the ability to rapidly re-deploy your amateur radio field station.

Power multiplier: The power multiplier that applies is determined by the highest power output of any of the transmitters used during the contest at any point in time. X 6 - 5 Watts or less; X 4 - 6 to 50 Watts; X 2 - 51 watts or greater



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Bonus points (All categories). 5 Points (the equivalent of five QSOs) for a minimum of one satellite or any digital modes QSO involving a computer, smartphone or digital modes device. (For clarity - thereafter 1 point per Satellite / Digital modes QSO). 5 points for the first inter continental DX QSO - 10 points if that QSO is between two participating RaDAR stations.

Log Sheets, the SARL RaDAR Contest manager is Eddie, ZS6BNE. Send e-mail entries to edleighton@gmail.com. The closing date for logs is 19 April 2014. See www.dropbox.com/s/hygzv5no1gev0bx/ZS6BNE-RaDAR-GenericContestLog2013.docx for a log sheet specifically designed for the RaDAR contest.

Note: A photo of the station (JPG format) MUST accompany every log entry. A photo is required for each new location that moveable stations move to. These photos are used to promote amateur radio and the RaDAR concept showing where amateur radio can be used to communicate from and in the many different ways.

African DX

Senegal. Jeff, N6GQ, is active as 6W/N6GQ from Le Calao, Senegal, between 21 and 30 March 2014. He will be active on 160 to 6 metres using CW and SSB, including an entry in the CQ WW WPX SSB Contest (29 and 30 March), CQ zone 35. QSL via LoTW if preferred.



Togo, 5V. Phil, F5MVB and Joel, F5AOW will be active as 5V7MP and 5V7BJ, respectively, from Avepozo from 23 to 31 March. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home calls.

Botswana, A2. Schalk, ZS1LL will be active as A22LL from Botswana from 5 to 30 April. QSL direct to home call and LoTW.

Morocco, CN. Frans, PA5CA and Leo, PDOHPP will be active as CN2CA while travelling through the Moroccan desert on a 4x4 vehicle between 5 and 20 April. They plan to be active on 80 to 6 metres SSB. QSL via PA9M. See <http://pa5ca.com/wp/> for further information.

Cameroon, TJ . Thomas, DL8SEQ (7J1AIJ, AA8NN), working for the German Foreign Service and presently in Yaounde until the summer of 2015, is now active as TJ3TS. He is currently using an Icom IC-720, but will have a Yaesu FT-897 and Kenwood TL922 during the first week of May 2014. Antennas are a Spiderbeam (20, 15 and 10 m) and a homebrew dipole for 80, 40 and 30 m. Modes will be SSB and the Digimodes (PSK, JT-65, JT9). He will attempt to be active on the Oscars, and next month he hope to be active on 6 metres as well.

His QSL Manager is SWL PA3249 (only direct with SAE and 2 GS). At the moment, Thomas is working on QSL design. The QRZ.com page is not up-to-date yet. Thomas has an aviation Web site page at: <http://www.n81eu.eu> (aero-mobile operations have been performed during his first Atlantic-crossing on 20 metre with a magloop [built from a bicycle rim] aboard.) He informed OPDX that his previous DXpeditions have been from Guam, Palau and Ogasawara in the early 1990s.



African Islands on the Air

Canary Islands. Jaime, WP3A, will be active as EF8U from the Las Palmas Contest station on Isla de Gran Canaria (AF-004) as a Single-Op / All-Band / Low-Power / Assisted entry during the CQ WW WPX SSB Contest (29 and 30 March). QSL direct to EA8URE and LoTW. Outside of the contest, between 26 March and 6 April, Jaime will be active as EA8/WP3A. Listen for QSL instructions.

Mayotte, FH. The F8REF Bulletin reports that Pierre-Louis, F5NED will operate as TO5NED from Mayotte (AF-027) from 29 March to 2 April, with activity on the HF bands CW and SSB.



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Mayotte, TO7/FH. Hartwig, DL7BC, is once again be active as FH/DL7BC from Mayotte (AF-027) until 4 April. Activity will be from Bruno's, DH1BL/FH4VOS, QTH. Operations will be on 20 - 10 metres (40 m possibly) plus participation in CQ WW WPX SSB Contest signing TO7BC. He will use 100 watts into a Spider-Beam. QSL via his home call sign, direct or by the Bureau. For more details, visit his Web site at http://www.qslnet.de/member/dl7bc/en_TO7BC.htm

Amateur Radio World Prefix Maps in full colour with excellent detail

We have produced an Amateur Radio World Prefix Map which is unbranded, i.e. there is no radio manufacturers logo's on the maps, we have found that Radio Amateurs who own a Yaesu transceiver do not want a map that has a Kenwood or Icom logo and vice versa, so our maps appeal to ALL radio amateurs.

Maps are FULLY up to date and include all the latest updates.... PJ4 Bonaire, PJ5 St Eustatius, PJ6 Saba, PJ7 St Maarten and Z8 South Sudan

Our finished maps measure approximately 39" x 27" and are printed on photo quality silk paper, we have sold our maps all over the world, this includes USA, Canada, UAE, Russia, Australia, New Zealand, Martinique, Chile, Mexico, Argentina, Israel and all over Europe to name but a few, they have been a great success.

Our maps are printed on professional litho printing machines using photo quality paper to the highest standard, they are the best quality available and they are NEW and unused...

I will post anywhere in the world, maps will arrive rolled up in a poster tube. The costs are given below....

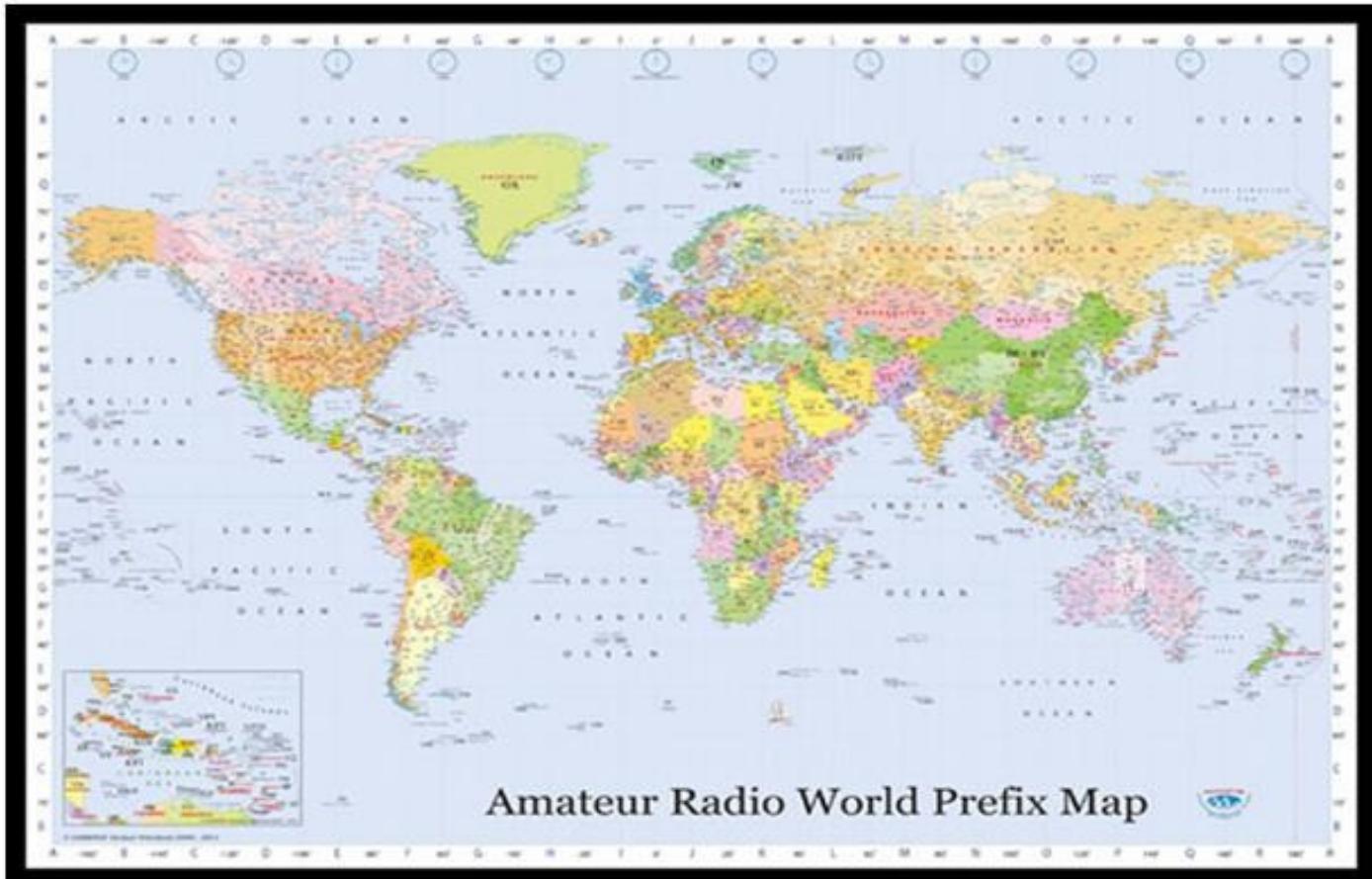
UK - £10.50 Including insured postage.

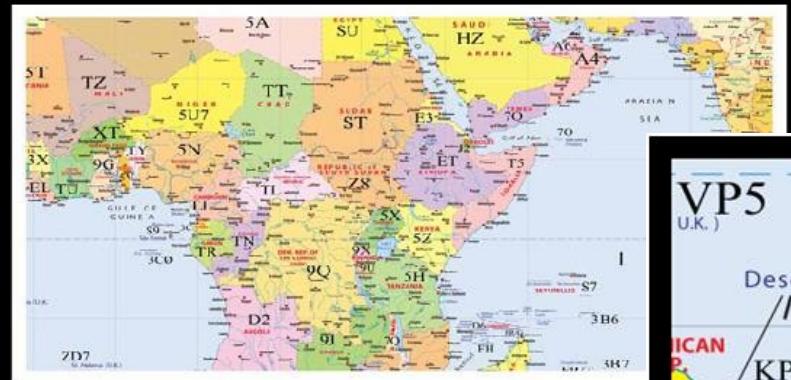
Europe - £11.75 GBP (13.94 Euro's) Including insured postage.

USA/Rest of the World - £12.75 GBP (\$20.35) including insured postage.

All Payments should be made in GBP via Paypal to maps@hamcall.co.uk

I can also be contacted on the following e-mail address maps@hamcall.co.uk. I am Ok in any call book and QRZ.com, I look forward to hearing from you. Mike, GMOPHW.





Words to the Wise

QTM - Read the manual! Well, that's not the *official* meaning of QTM, but nevertheless, it's amazing how many annoying and mysterious problems can be solved by a careful reading of the applicable manual as described by this XKCD graphic <http://xkcd.com/1343/>.

Operating Tip

Keep your BIC (Butt-In-Chair) time maximised by creating a comfortable monitor viewing arrangement. Bill, N3RR, and Bob, KØRC, recently handed out some advice on choosing video monitors for your operating position. Since you will be spending a whole lot of time looking at them, whether you are a contestester or not, their selection and placement is important.

- Dual monitors are recommended although it may require an upgrade to your PC's video card.
- Consider your eyesight and choose a monitor with resolution to support font sizes you are comfortable with.
- Small bezels mean less distraction when moving the cursor from screen to screen.
- To avoid head and neck stress, video monitors must be viewed downward at a slight angle.
- Square inches of display area are a better metric than diagonal size and the wide-aspect format supports more windows at their normal sizes.

Bill's website <http://users.erols.com/n3rr> has an extensive discussion on these and other topics related to SO2R station design. Steve, N2IC, and your editor also recommend getting a low-cost pair of single-focus glasses for the distance between your eyes and the monitor. This is good advice for anyone who spends a lot of time at their computer!

As long as we're on the subject of manuals, this would be a good time to make sure you have a properly-working version of your logging software with all supporting files like CTY.dat <http://www.country-files.com/> updated to the latest and greatest - especially for a contest like WPX with "interesting" prefixes in abundance. Don't wait until 23:55 UTC on Friday!

Contest Calendar

Whither steam-powered radio and the vacuum tube? Louis Frenzel, W5LEF provides his perspective in a recent Electronic Design column, "Long Live Vacuum Tube Amps" <http://electronicdesign.com/blog/long-live-vacuum-tube-amps>.

Occasionally Dan AC6LA posts examples showing how his EZNEC manager software AutoEZ can be used to address different modeling questions. Those examples are now available on the AutoEZ web page <http://ac6la.com/autoez.html>. See the "Collected Short Examples" links (just below the Quick Start Guide links).

DX Engineering has a new calculator - the Mast Load Estimator <http://www.dxengineering.com/mastloadestimator>. Designed for DX Engineering's 2 and 3-inch OD masts, the program needs information about the height of the mast and where antennas will be placed. Presto - you get a pass/fail results for four wind speeds. That sounds a little less risky than "put it up and see what happens!"

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"Staying Safe from High Voltage" http://www.designnews.com/author.asp?section_id=1368&doc_id=271722 is the topic and title of the *Design News* column "Sherlock Ohms". Read and heed - there is just no substitute for safety! While you're at it, check the test leads of that old meter. Cracked insulation can let those electrons take a short cut to your fingers instead of through the meter. And *never* use a meter at voltages beyond those it's rated for so that you don't experience a "flashover" which is a severe shock hazard. "Trifle not with high voltage..." begins the old and wise saying.

A 160 Meter Sunrise

After spending too much time in the Top Band pileups this season, Dr Beldar came up with this adaptation of The Eagles' hit "Tequila Sunrise." Or perhaps, after adapting too many tequila sunrises, Dr Beldar came up with... well, you get the idea. He thought it might be appropriate for a publication close to very, very early April. You think?

It's a one-sixty-meter sunrise

Slidin' slowly up the sky

The sun says hi.

He was always on the band

Lookin' for new zones, he just needs five

The dawn slips by.

Ev'ry night when the sun goes down

Like every other op in town

He's out there tunin' round.

He couldn't work the expeditions

So he had to turn his big amp on.

The path's so long.

Oh, and it's a hollow feelin'

When they fade but work your friends

It never ends.

Take a walk to check the Beverage

Wonder why the op'nings never come.

His ears get numb.

It's a one-sixty-meter sunrise

This old band still sounds the same

The DX game....

Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 24 to 31 March 2014

QRP Fox Hunt

01:00 - 02:30 UTC 28 March

Mode: CW

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: Single Op (Fox/Hound)

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 02:30 UTC 29 March 2014

E-mail logs to: (see rules)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.qrpfoxyhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

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NCCC RTTY Sprint

02:00 - 02:30 UTC 28 March

Mode: RTTY

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 30 March 2014

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html>

NCCC Sprint

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 28 March

Mode: (see rules)

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 30 March 2014

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

CQ WW WPX SSB Contest

00:00 UTC 29 March to 23:59 UTC 30 March

Mode: SSB

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band - QRP, low or high - Tribander or rookie; Single Op Single Band - QRP, low or high - Tribander or rookie; Single Op Assisted All Band - QRP, low or high - Tribander or rookie; Single Op Assisted Single Band - QRP, low or high - Tribander or rookie; Multi-Single; Multi-Two; Multi-Multi
Max operating hours: Single Op: 36 hours with off times of at least 60 minutes; Multi-Op: 48 hours

Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: RS and serial no

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 6 points per 160, 80 and 40 m QSO with different continent; 3 points per 20, 15 and 10 m QSO with different continent; 2 points per 160, 80 and 40 m QSO with same continent different country; 1 point per 20, 15 and 10 m QSO with same continent different country; 4 points per 160, 80 and 40 m QSO between stations in NA; 2 points per 20, 15 and 10 m QSO between stations in NA; 1 point per QSO with same country (except in NA)

Multipliers: Prefixes once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 4 April 2014

E-mail logs to: ssb@cqwpix.com

Upload log at: <http://www.cqwpix.com/logcheck/>

Mail logs to: SSB WPX Contest, PO Box 481, New Carlisle, OH 45344, USA

Find rules at: <http://www.cqwpix.com/rules.htm>

PN Quick CW Contest

16:00 UTC-17:40 UTC 29 March

Mode: CW

Bands: 20 m Only

Classes: Single Op

Max power: 100 Watts

Exchange: PN Member: "PN" and member no; non-Member: Serial no

QSO Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: Each PN member

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 8 April 2014

E-mail logs to: nra.contest@nra.pt

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.nra.pt/pn-quick-cw-contest_in_.html

Next Weeks Contests

QRP Fox Hunt, 01:00 - 02:30 UTC 2 April

SARL 80 m QSO Party, 17:00 - 20:00 UTC 3 April

NRAU 10 m Activity Contest, 18:00 - 19:00 UTC 3 April (CW); 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 3 April (SSB); 20:00 - 21:00 UTC 3 April (FM); 21:00 - 22:00 UTC 3 April (Dig)

QRP Fox Hunt, 01:00 - 02:30 UTC 4 April

15-Meter SSTV Dash Contest, 00:00 UTC 5 April to 23:59 UTC 6 April

LZ Open 40 m Sprint Contest, 04:00 - 08:00 UTC 5 April

RaDAR Contest, 14:00 - 18:00 UTC 5 April



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PODXS 070 Club PSK 31 Flavours Contest, 12:00 - 18:00 local 5 April
QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party, 12:00 UTC 5 April to 23:59 UTC 6 April
Mississippi QSO Party, 14:00 UTC 5 April to 02:00 UTC 6 April
Missouri QSO Party, 14:00 UTC 5 April to 02:00 UTC 6 April; 14:00 - 20:00 UTC 6 April
Texas State Parks on the Air, 14:00 UTC 5 April to 01:59 UTC 6 April
SP DX Contest, 15:00 UTC 5 April to 15:00 UTC 6 April
EA RTTY Contest, 16:00 UTC 5 April to 16:00 UTC 6 April
RSGB RoPoCo SSB, 19:00 - 20:30 UTC 6 April
RSGB 80 m Club Championship, CW, 19:00 - 20:30 UTC 7 April
ARS Spartan Sprint, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 8 April

New 40 m Counties Contest

The Irish Radio Transmitters Society runs four Counties Contests every year, two on HF (80 metres) and two on VHF (2 metres). The success of the 40 metre radio news, given the number of call-in stations to that service, shows that this band is also very popular with members, so the Society has decided to pilot a 40 metre Counties Contest this year.

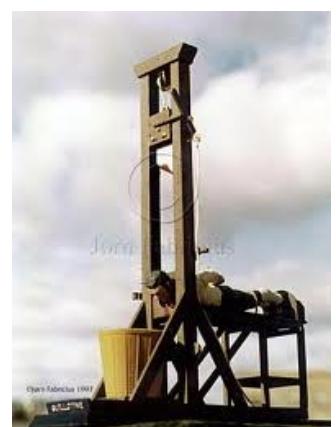
The date is Sunday 18 May, from 12:00 to 15:00 UTC and there are sections for fixed stations and portable stations, using SSB only or both SSB and CW; there is also a section for Shortwave Listeners. As with the existing counties contests, the 32 EI and GI counties are multipliers.

In order to encourage overseas participation in our HF Counties contests, a separate award is available in each section for overseas entrants. It is likely that callers to EI and GI stations may be interested in Worked All Ireland details, so participants are advised to have their WAI square information to hand. See www.irts.ie/contests for more details, including the Rules and the deadline for logs. Note in particular the rules about frequencies and modes.

And this got me thinking! South Africa does not have counties, we have municipalities (the Free State is divided into one metropolitan municipality and four district municipalities. The district municipalities are in turn divided into nineteen local municipalities.) and each municipality has a reference number - visit http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Districts_of_South_Africa. Maybe an idea for a short contest!

History this Week, week starting 24 March 14

- 1639 - America's first canal to provide industrial water power was began in Dedham, Mass
- 1791 - The French National Assembly chose that a metre would be a 1/10 000 000 of the distance between the North Pole and the equator
- 1792 - In Paris, at the place de Grève, the guillotine was used for the first time on a human, highwayman Nicolas Jacques Pelletier
- 1885 - Commercial production began of George Eastman's flexible, paper-backed photographic film
- 1899 - Guglielmo Marconi transmitted across the English Channel from Boulogne, France, to Dover, England
- 1903 - Regular news service began between New York and London on Marconi's wireless
- 1905 - The radio fax was patented in the US by Cornelius Ehret of Rosemont, Pennsylvania



Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newsline, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Bulletin, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News and Southgate ARC News